



## **News Release**

For Immediate Release

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### **North central Indiana to receive grant aimed at creating new jobs in advanced manufacturing**

*Grant will build on \$15-million federal WIRED grant awarded last year*

INDIANAPOLIS (June 20, 2006) – North central Indiana will receive a grant from the state of Indiana for \$346,202 to help create jobs in the region's advanced manufacturing industries, Ron Stiver, commissioner of the Indiana Department of Workforce Development announced today.

The grant is part of the Daniels administration's Strategic Skills Initiative, a workforce development program introduced last year.

"On behalf of Governor Mitch Daniels, we are delighted to present this award to help local officials in their quest to develop their advanced manufacturing industry and create new jobs," Stiver said. "The region has identified advanced manufacturing as a target industry that is ripe for growth, one that builds on the region's historical strengths."

Stiver said the Strategic Skills Initiative grant will build on the federal WIRED grant announced last year for the region. The WIRED grant is a three-year, \$15-million initiative that will be used by regional workforce and economic development and education officials to encourage entrepreneurship, support older workers and target transitional market sectors such as advanced manufacturing. Funded by the U.S. Department of Labor, WIRED is an acronym for Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development.

Stiver noted that much of the research conducted in the early phases of the Strategic Skills Initiative was used to develop the WIRED proposal. In addition, a few of the solutions that will be launched under the WIRED program were included in the region's strategic skills proposal to demonstrate the strong linkage between the two programs.

"Like the WIRED grant, the state grant will help local officials strategically and systematically work to grow the most promising industry sectors, upgrade the local workforce, and create jobs," Stiver said.

The state grant will be used to develop a 160-hour advanced manufacturing course called Skill Map. Skill Map will target manufacturing companies that are experiencing shortages and will provide training to 300 workers. In addition to this training, Ivy Tech

Community College in Kokomo will provide testing for the Manufacturing Skill Standard Council (MSSC), a national certification. The region projects that 200 of the workers certified under this program will be promoted or placed into occupational shortages in the region.

The state's Strategic Skills Initiative seeks to identify critical occupational and skill shortages and their causes throughout the state, and then fund grants to local consortia to develop solutions that address the shortages. Last year, a grant of \$221,674 was awarded to the region for research and identification of the occupations, industries and skills projected to be in short supply. Today's grant provides the region with funds to build on that research.

The grant has been awarded to the regional workforce board on behalf of a consortium of workforce and economic development officials from the state's economic growth Region 4, which includes Benton, White, Cass, Miami, Warren, Carroll, Tippecanoe, Clinton, Tipton, Howard, Fountain and Montgomery counties.

The Department of Workforce Development is charged with continually improving the Hoosier workforce by assisting companies to create new jobs and improve employee skills. The agency offers a variety of training and educational grants, partners with Indiana's 26 WorkOne Centers, administers the unemployment insurance system, provides labor market information, assists employers with preparing workers for layoffs and closures and operates a statewide job placement service.

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Attachment: summary of regional grant award

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# Indiana Department of Workforce Development

## Strategic Skills Initiative

### Economic Growth Region 4



Mitch Daniels, Governor  
Ron Stiver, Commissioner  
June 2006

#### About SSI

Governor Daniels' \$23 million Strategic Skills (SSI) Initiative aims to identify and alleviate job and skill shortages. The program will be carried out in Indiana's 11 economic regions through an ongoing process of identifying future shortages, determining the cause of those shortages, and developing solutions. Ultimately SSI will create jobs and increase personal income for Hoosiers.

#### About Region 4

- Population (July 2005)  
**483,492**
- Labor Force (March 2006)  
**244,030**
- Unemployment (March 2006)  
**5.5%**
- Per Capita Income  
**\$27,299 in 2004**

Source: [www.hoosierdata.in.gov](http://www.hoosierdata.in.gov)

#### Counties in Region

- Benton
- Warren
- Fountain
- White
- Tippecanoe
- Montgomery
- Carroll
- Clinton
- Cass
- Howard
- Tipton
- Miami



INDIANA  
**WORKFORCE**  
DEVELOPMENT

#### Economic Growth Region 4

**Economic Growth Region 4** is comprised of 12 counties. The SSI research & identification allocation awarded in September 2005 was \$221,674. The solutions allocations for Region 4 awarded in June 2006 is \$346,202. Methods used to identify key job shortages were focus groups; primary research; SSI Analysis Toolkits and web workshops.

#### Key Occupational Shortages

#### Projection 2005-2007

Metal and Plastic	660
Material Moving	440
Material, Recording, Scheduling, Dispatching, Distributing	270
Other Maintenance and Repair	220
Supervisors of Production and Operating	40

#### Emerging Industries / Occupations

Maintenance & Repair , General/Maintenance , Machinery

#### Root Causes

- Low Awareness of Career Opportunities in Manufacturing**
  - Manufacturing trades are not promoted in the home or school
- Employer screening and Assessment capabilities are limited and less effective than desired**
  - Manufacturing HR departments spend an average of five weeks filling skilled positions
- Misalignment of Secondary/ Post-Secondary Education/ Training with Student/Employer Needs**
  - There is a limited available skill pool due to current perceptions of the manufacturing industry.

Identified Solutions →

1.

Identified Solutions	
Solution: <i>SKILL MAP</i>	Dollars Allotted: <i>\$346,202</i>
Solution Description: SKILL MAP is a 160-hour advanced manufacturing course. SKILL MAP will target manufacturing companies that are experiencing shortages and will train 300 workers. In addition to the training, Ivy Tech Community College will provide testing for the Manufacturing Skill Standard Council (MSSC) certification, a national certification. 200 of those certified will be promoted or placed into high-skilled shortage occupations. SKILL MAP will fill occupation shortages of Region 4 and prepare workers for emerging occupations in advanced manufacturing.	Outcomes Proposed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 300 Hoosier workers trained</li><li>• 225 complete MSSC certifications</li><li>• 200 workers in shortage occupations</li></ul>

*Solution Totals*

*\$346,202*

*300 Hoosiers trained*

*225 certifications earned*

*200 placed in shortage occupations*